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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,254	08/05/2003	Lyle V. Lehman	HES 2000-IP-001210U1	7096
29920	7590	02/25/2005	EXAMINER	
JOHN W. WUSTENBERG P.O. BOX 1431 DUNCAN, OK 73536			STEPHENSON, DANIEL P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3672	
DATE MAILED: 02/25/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/634,254

Applicant(s)

LEHMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel P Stephenson

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/4/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 16, 17 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maki, Jr. et al. '243. Maki, Jr. et al. '243 discloses a system for use in a wellbore which has; a tool (10) adapted to be inserted in the wellbore, a driver (18) mounted to the tool for supplying electrical power; and a transducer (28) mounted on the outside of the tool and adapted to vibrate in response to the electrical power supplied by the driver. There is a gravel pack in the wellbore supported by a screening device (82). The vibration of the transducer removes scale from the screening device. The transducer is a piezoelectric transducer.

3. Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 16, 18 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the pre-grant publication '017 to Soliman et al. Soliman et al. '017 discloses a system for use in a wellbore which has; a tool (200) adapted to be inserted in the wellbore, a driver (65) mounted to the tool for supplying electrical power; and a transducer (66) mounted on the outside of the tool and adapted to vibrate in response to the electrical power supplied by the driver. The vibration of the transducer removes scale from the inside of an open borehole to stimulate the formation. The transducer is a piezoelectric transducer. There is a sensor (400, 500) mounted on the tool for measuring the thickness of the scale in the wellbore.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-7, 12-15 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soliman et al. '017 in view of Flanders et al. Soliman et al. '017 shows all the limitations of the claimed invention, except, it does not disclose that there is a microprocessor on the tool that receives the signal from the sensors on the tool and controls the driver in such a manner as to activate it when a signal is received from the sensors. Flanders et al. discloses a downhole well resonator tool in which there is a plurality of sensors (68), a microprocessor (112) and a bank of resonators (74). Upon signals from the sensors the microprocessor will determine whether or not to activate the driver (120) of the resonators. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the microprocessor and control of Flanders et al. on the device of Soliman et al. '017. This would be done to allow automatic control of the apparatus downhole.

Conclusion


6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Morris et al., Huffman et al., Martin and Kohl et al. all show similar elements to those of the present invention.

Art Unit: 3672

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel P Stephenson whose telephone number is (703) 605-4969 until 3/31/05 at which time it will change to (571) 272-7035. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on (703) 308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


David Bagnell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3672

DPS 